

# South Carolina education accomplishments

(January 2007)

## Test Scores

***Since 1999, South Carolina's scores have increased, often dramatically, on every state, national and international test administered, and our improvement consistently outpaces the nation's.***

- South Carolina's 31-point gain in SAT scores leads the nation over the past ten years. The national 10-year increase is eight points. The state's 11-point improvement since 2001 is fourth best in the nation.
- For the first time in history, South Carolina students are scoring at and above the national average on nationally and internationally standardized tests.
  - Most South Carolina scores are approaching or exceed the national average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the federally required test widely considered the best measure for comparisons among the states. In 2005, South Carolina's fourth- and eighth-graders scored above the national average in math and only slightly below the national average in reading.
  - South Carolina's eighth-graders have the top improvement in the nation on the NAEP math assessment, and South Carolina fourth-graders have the top improvement in science. Standard and Poor's has identified the Palmetto State as an "outperformer" on NAEP for consistently achieving above statistical expectations.
  - South Carolina students meet or exceed the international average in the Third International Math and Science Study, which compares test scores of students in 38 nations.
- South Carolina students have posted significant long-term gains on statewide PACT testing across all grade levels, subjects, and demographic groups.
  - Math scores and English/Language Arts scores on PACT are up in every grade.
  - The percentage of students scoring Basic or above in math has increased by an average of 22 points since 1999 in grades 3 through 8. The percentage of students scoring Basic or above in English/Language Arts has increased by an average of 13 points since 1999 in grades 3 through 8.
- The funding and phase-in of full-day kindergarten have dramatically improved school readiness, with the biggest improvements made by minority students and students from low-income families.

- South Carolina is one of only a few states that have increased high school seniors' scores on the ACT college entrance exam over the past five years despite dramatically increasing the number of students who took the exam.

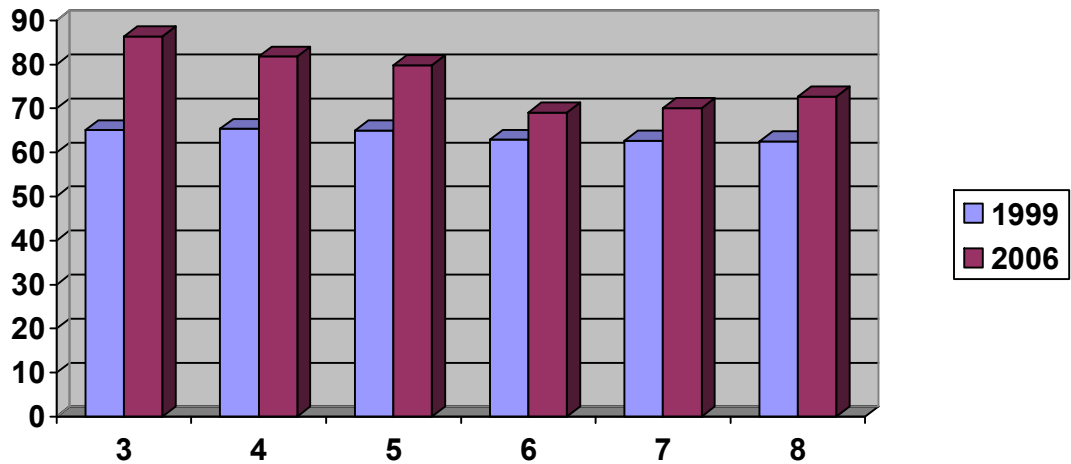
## National Standing and National Recognition

***South Carolina's education reform efforts have won national recognition and respect as among the best and most effective in the country.***

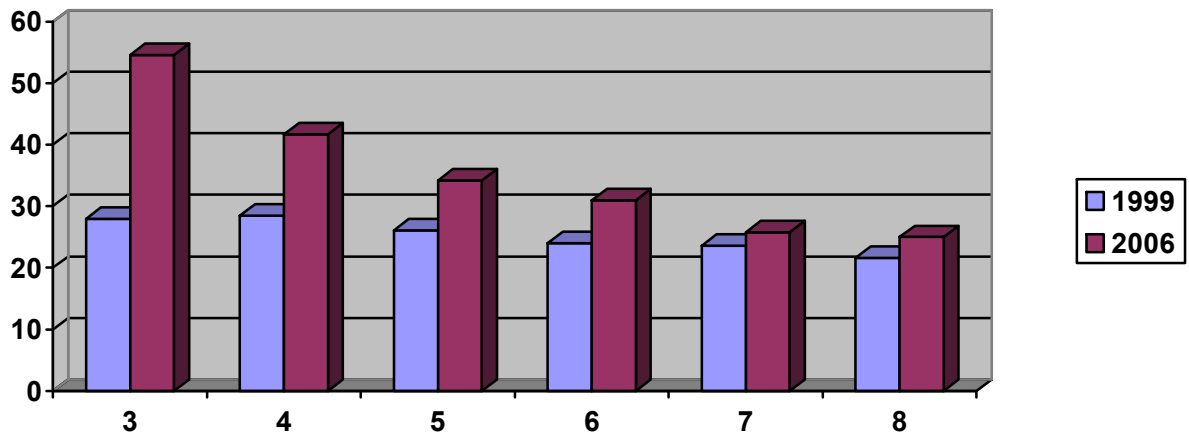
- The 2007 national report card "Quality Counts," published by the respected magazine Education Week, ranked South Carolina No. 1 in the nation in academic standards, assessment and accountability. The state ranked 11th in efforts to connect K-12 education with early learning, higher education and the world of work.
- "Quality Counts" also ranked South Carolina No. 1 in the nation for improving teacher quality in both 2003 and 2004 and No.2 in the nation for teacher quality improvement in 2005 and 2006.
- South Carolina ranks third in the nation in the number of teachers certified by the prestigious National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, with 5,077 nationally certified teachers.
- Eight independent national studies have cited South Carolina's academic standards as among the most rigorous in the nation. Most recently, the education research organization Education Trust ranked South Carolina and Maine as No. 1 in the nation for the rigor of student proficiency standards.
- The Fordham Foundation ranked South Carolina's science academic standards as the nation's fourth best and the state's world history standards as eighth best.
- The national journal Education Next said that South Carolina, Maine and Massachusetts have the nation's most rigorous standards for academic proficiency (Summer 2006).
- The Princeton Review ranked South Carolina's testing system as No. 11 in the nation and praised the state's academic proficiency standards as among the nation's most rigorous.
- South Carolina's student testing program was the first in the U.S. to earn federal No Child Left Behind approval.
- South Carolina is a national leader in service-learning programs, which enable students to develop community service projects linked to their academic studies. Each year, more than 100,000 South Carolina students volunteer more than a million hours of community service through service-learning programs.

# Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT)

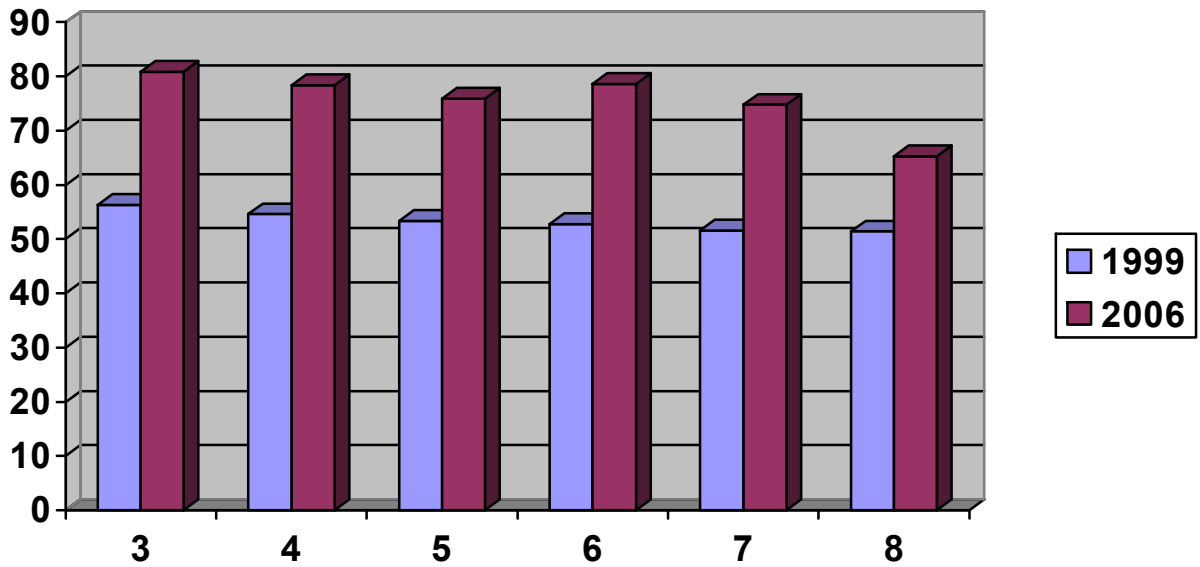
**English Language Arts  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Basic or Above  
1999 - 2006**



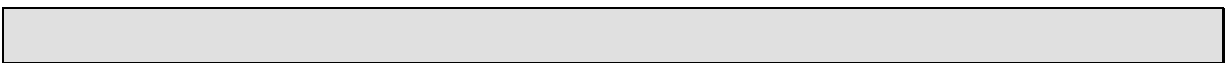
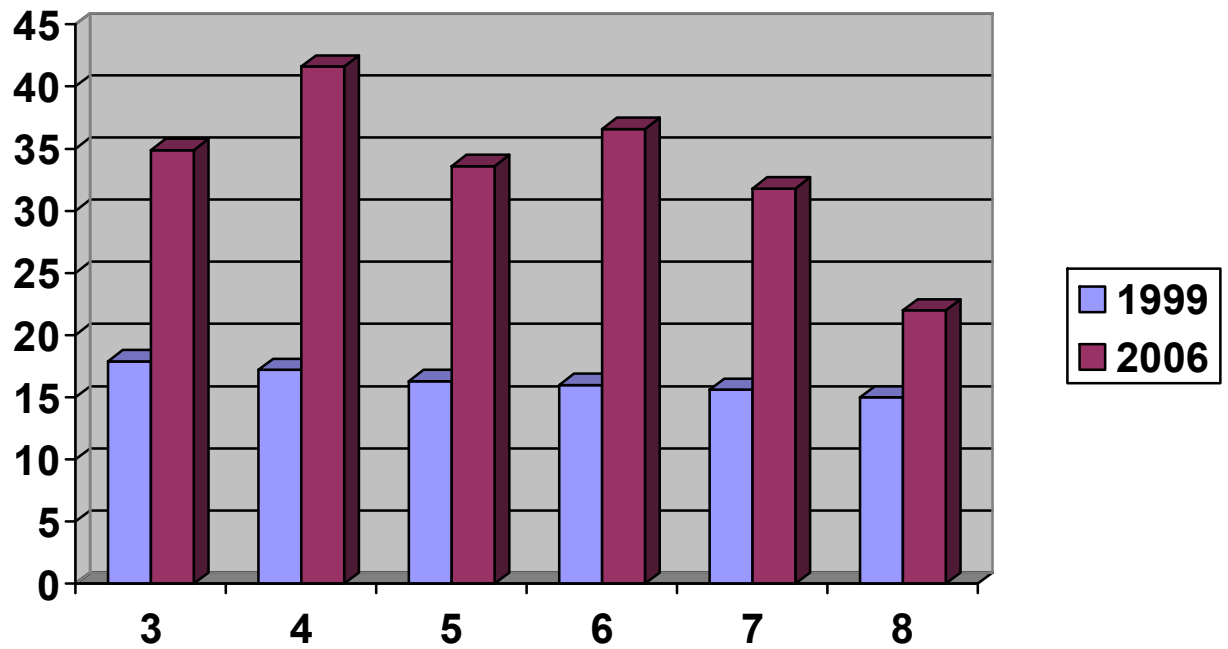
**English Language Arts  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Proficient or Advanced  
1999 - 2006**



**Mathematics  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Basic or Above  
1999 - 2006**

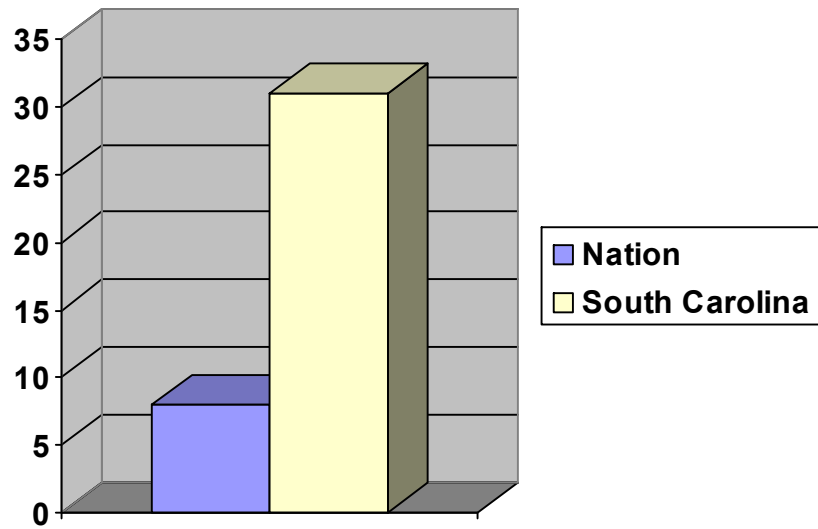


**Mathematics  
Percentage of Students  
Scoring Proficient or Advanced  
1999 - 2006**



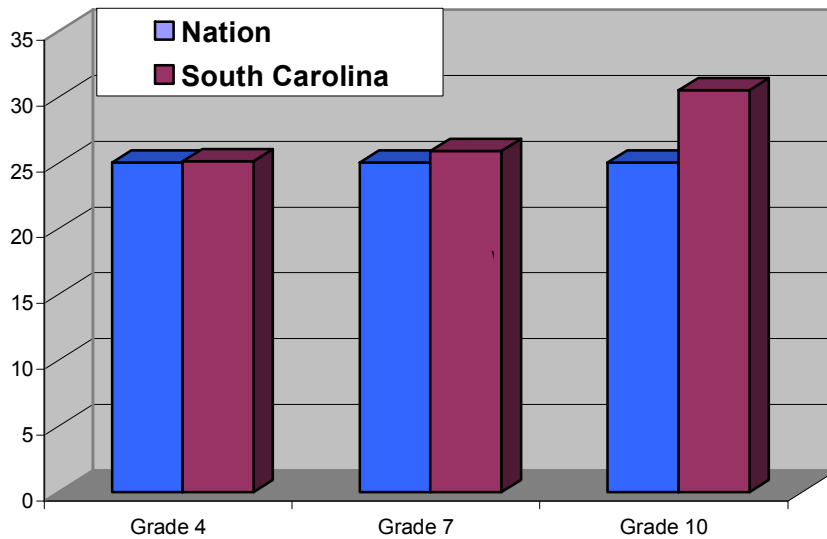
# Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)

**SAT Improvement Rate (Points Gained)  
South Carolina versus The Nation  
1996-2006**

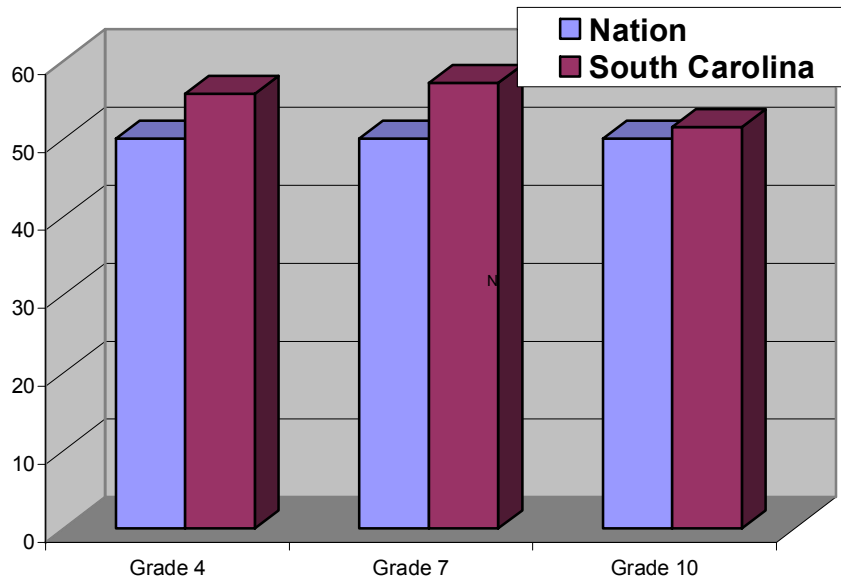


# TerraNova

**TerraNova, Total Battery, 2001**  
**Percentage of Students Scoring Above Average**



**TerraNova, Total Battery, 2001**  
**Percentage of Students Scoring Average**



# National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

